

Minutes
Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee Meeting
May 20, 2013

Members Present

Senator Fletcher Hartsell, Chair
Senator Ben Clark
Senator Ralph Hise
Senator Neal Hunt
Senator Shirley Randleman

Representative Julia Howard, Chair
Representative Pat Hurley
Representative Tim Moffitt

Call to Order

Representative Julia Howard, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Senator Hise moved to approve the April 22, 2013 *Minutes*. Motion carried.

Presentations and Appearances

John Turcotte was recognized to introduce newly hired staff: Charles Hefren, Principal Program Evaluator; Sara Nienow, Senior Program Evaluator; Brent Lucas, Program Evaluator; and Josh Love, Publications Coordinator.

Representative Howard recognized Dr. Maria Petrie-Martin, State Director of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction for DPI, and Dr. Maureen Berner from the UNC School of Government, who presented the follow-up report on Driver Education as well as planned work on driver education moving forward. Dr. Berner reported that their evaluation was in progress. DPI and SOG had collected data comparing test results for students enrolled in traditional driver education programs vs. students given blended (traditional plus online) instruction; however, the students who had enrolled in their pilot program for purely online delivery of driver education had not become eligible for testing by the DMV at the time the data was culled and analyzed, so they were not included in the findings. Dr. Berner also stated that SOG could not make confident determinations of the cost-per-student for each of the instructional methods because of concerns over comparability. Dr. Petrie-Martin did not report status of their strategic plan or fiscal analysis of programs. Representative Howard said that the report would not be accepted and asked that Dr. Petrie-Martin and Dr. Berner come back to the committee upon further investigation. It is up to DPI whether any additional study would be conducted.

Dr. Petrie-Martin stated that DPI should continue to gather information from the pilot and schools so that they can answer the question – “What did we learn from the pilot program?” – and report back to the committee. Senator Hise commented that the issue at hand is not just the pilot program or students’ ability to pass a test to obtain licensure, but rather determining how we measure the overall effectiveness of the Driver Education program, including its ability to produce safer drivers.

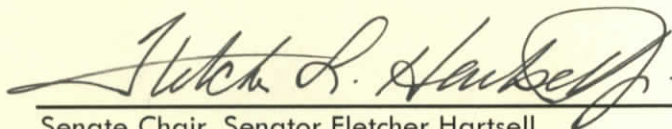
Senator Hartsell moved to amend the 2013-15 Work Plan to direct PED to conduct a formal review of DPI's handling of Driver Education, including on-line methods and program effectiveness. Motion passed. The report should be presented to the JLPEOC later in 2013.

Representative Howard recognized John Turcotte, who reviewed the PED Work Plan. The Work Plan is ordered in terms of priority as determined by legislators. The first five projects are already underway. John emphasized to committee members that the Work Plan is always subject to amendment. John explained to the committee that as of last month there is a pending special budget provision requiring DHHS to contract for a nearly identical study that is on the PED Work Plan – Community Care of NC. The Committee report on the Senate budget appropriated \$100,000 in State funds and authorizes an additional \$100,000 in non-state funds for the consultant.

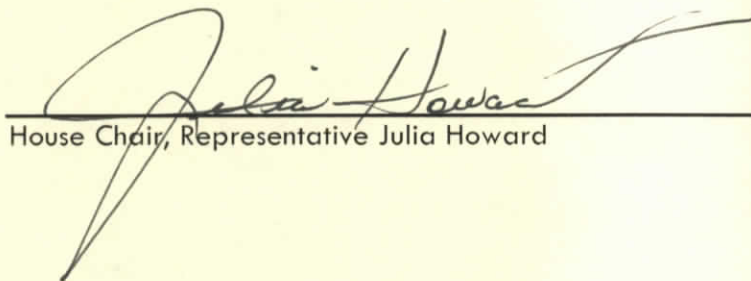
Representative Howard stated that chairs would not entertain amendments to the Work Plan until the budget is signed by the Governor.

Adjournment

With no further business, the committee adjourned.



Senate Chair, Senator Fletcher Hartsell



House Chair, Representative Julia Howard

Adjournment

With no further business, the committee adjourned.

